

Amendments to the Claims:

1-26. (canceled)

27. (withdrawn) A substantially pure SSE polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 30% identity to the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

28. (withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide modifies the production of food storage reserves.

29. (withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the intracellular transport of a storage protein.

30. (withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the formation of protein bodies.

31. (withdrawn) The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the formation of oil bodies.

32. (withdrawn) A method of producing an SSE polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 8 positioned for expression in the cell;
- (b) culturing the transformed cell under conditions for expressing the nucleic acid molecule; and
- (c) recovering the SSE polypeptide.

33. (withdrawn) A recombinant SSE polypeptide produced according to the method of claim 32.

34. (withdrawn) A substantially pure antibody that specifically recognizes and binds to an SSE polypeptide or a portion thereof.

35. (withdrawn) The antibody of claim 34, wherein said antibody recognizes and binds to a recombinant SSE polypeptide or a portion thereof.

36. (withdrawn) A method of isolating an SSE gene or fragment thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the nucleic acid molecule of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1) or a portion thereof with a nucleic acid preparation from a plant cell under hybridization conditions providing detection of nucleic acid sequences having at least 30% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1); and

(b) isolating said hybridizing nucleic acid sequences.

37. (withdrawn) A method of isolating an SSE gene or fragment thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a sample of plant cell DNA;

(b) providing a pair of oligonucleotides having sequence identity to a region of the nucleic acid of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1);

(c) contacting the pair of oligonucleotides with said plant cell DNA under conditions suitable for polymerase chain reaction-mediated DNA amplification; and

(d) isolating the amplified SSE gene or fragment thereof.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein said amplification step is carried out using a sample of cDNA prepared from a plant cell.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein said pair of oligonucleotides are based on a sequence encoding an SSE polypeptide, wherein the SSE polypeptide is at least 30% identical to the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

40. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO: 2), wherein silencing of expression of said nucleic acid molecule, in a plant, results in said plant having abnormal storage deposition and a shrunken phenotype of *sseI* seeds.

41. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1).

42. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

43. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

44. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 43, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

45. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 43, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is linked to the promoter in an antisense orientation.

46. (new) An expression vector comprising a promoter operably linked to the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40.

47. (new) The expression vector of claim 46, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1).

48. (new) The expression vector of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

49. (new) The expression vector of claim 46, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

50. (new) The expression vector of claim 46, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

51. (new) The expression vector of claim 46, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is linked to the promoter in an antisense orientation.

52. (new) A cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40.

53. (new) The cell of claim 52, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1).

54. (new) The cell of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

55. (new) The cell of claim 52, wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

56. (new) The cell of claim 55, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

57. (new) The cell of claim 55, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is linked to the promoter in an antisense orientation.

58. (new) The cell of claim 52, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

59. (new) The cell of claim 52, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.

60. (new) A plant or plant component comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40.

61. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1).

62. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).

63. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

64. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 63, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

65. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 63, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is linked to the promoter in an antisense orientation.

66. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein said plant or plant component is an angiosperm.

67. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein said plant or plant component is a dicot.

68. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein said plant or plant component is a cruciferous plant.

69. (new) The plant or plant component of claim 60, wherein said plant or plant component is a monocot.

70. (new) A seed comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 40.

71. (new) A cell from a plant or plant component of claim 60.

72. (new) A plant regenerated from a cell of the plant or plant component of claim 60.